

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 4, please insert;

A1 --FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

At page 1, line 9, please insert;

A2 --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

At page 3, line 35, please insert;

A3 --Coating materials of alginates are also known from WO-A-93/24077. The process therein presented already starts from alginates which are commercially available. This alginate preparation is treated with a complexing agent to remove the divalent metal ions. The subsequent treatment with activated charcoal absorbs the polyphenols still present together with the proteins and fucose units attached thereto. After the treatment with activated charcoal the alginate is precipitated from the solution, washed and filtered to remove further impurities. The molecular weight of said alginates is located in the lower range, it is in the range of about 2 to 300 kD.

Alginates rich of mannuronic acids are known from Biomaterials, volume 8, 1997, pages 707 to 713. Said alginate is extracted from brown algae and subsequently purified. The purification process is based on the extraction of alginate beads cross-linked with Ba²⁺ ions (produced from coal-treated raw algine extract) with weak acids, citrate and ethanol. Then a dialysis is made, whereafter the alginate is then precipitated with ethanol.--

At page 4, line 5, please insert;

A4 --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

AT PAGE 4, LINE 15, PLEASE DELETE;

[This objective is achieved by a process and an alginate composition with the features according to Patent Claim 1 and 16 respectively. Advantageous embodiments and applications of the invention are derived from the dependent claims.]

At page 11, line 25, please insert;